

AGENDA & Minutes from Friends of Riverfront Park 2.19.15

a. any updates from Scott or Ben on construction and on signage for the park

Ben from Trust for Public Land said the work contract has been agreed on. Same designer as previously (Lee Weintraub). As soon as designs are ready over the winter, then revised designs will be shared with us for comments. Timeline: probably by April.

Signs have been installed on the park railing. Other signs are in the works, probably be installed in the spring. TPL has included the tile project in the work. Lenny & Nancy will get downstairs to give approximate number of tiles.

b. Any report on PSE&G opening, Marcy will be getting the contact from Damon to stay on top of this, and find out as soon as possible.

c. Report back any news from the Mayor's office - (so far none that i know of) According to the Mayor's East Ward rep, they are "working on it"

d. Any current maintenance issues Ben mentioned that garbage can covers have been taken off. He is trying to secure them. Also graffiti removal was undertaken, but they will look at it once more before the spring.

Nancy mentioned the Sister Carol Memorial planning that is underway, possibly replacing the dead weeping beech tree. There was a suggestion that some ceremony could be held for this on River Day.

e. Distribution of the river brochures - Marcy will get copies of folded and flat copies for schools in Ironbound once the meetings are arranged – by Nancy. The idea of selling the brochures in conjunction with the boat tours was raised, and people liked it. Boat tour dates are now set. It was suggested that the price be increased to \$20 for out-of-Newark folks, (for \$25 you get the brochure as well). A full boat load at that price is still \$20 shy of the full cost. We all agreed that \$5 for Newarkers is good. Marcy is investigating the idea of having people use PayPal to purchase brochures, having them mailed out, and what the cost would be for that.

f. Fund-raising - any updates. ICC is working on getting match for the Victoria riverfront grant. Possible corporate match grant for this (Drew/Nancy working on) We need to raise \$10 K of new monies – not any funders we have had previously - by the end of June.

g. Calendar talk through with Marcy: We spent time discussing the DRAFT calendar. Remember nothing is written in stone! Some suggestions about moving things around were made, such as avoiding conflict with Lincoln Park Festival, etc. switching the House Music on July 24 to July 17. A suggestion was made to switch Luzophone music night date (Nancy will check with Councilman Amador). If you see conflicts – or have comments on the calendar - let Marcy know

h. special focus on RIVER DAY itself – Also please think about River Day which is probably the hardest - the most moving parts - may be the most important because it is the first event. How to get more people there? Length of the day itself. Last year we were losing people. How to ramp it up again?

Many suggestions were made, including having youth groups prepare projects for display at River Day, having a famous person march (Queen Latifah!), having various feeder marches. It was generally agreed that the day in the past was too long, and that activities and entertainment might be shorter and more intertwined. Better sound would help this event.

h. the next Friends meeting at City Hall - date is March 19th, time: 6 PM (to be confirmed). Marcy is also planning a Press Conference to "announce" the final calendar, and will let us know the date.